US 20210299271A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2021/0299271 A1**

Fishkin et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 30, 2021**

(54) **CONJUGATES COMPRISING CELL-BINDING AGENTS AND CYTOTOXIC AGENTS**

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(21) Appl. No.: **17/174,911**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 12, 2021**

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 14/843,429, filed on Sep. 2, 2015, now Pat. No. 10,988,531.

(60) Provisional application No. 62/186,235, filed on Jun. 29, 2015, provisional application No. 62/149,379, filed on Apr. 17, 2015, provisional application No. 62/086,986, filed on Dec. 3, 2014, provisional application No. 62/045,264, filed on Sep. 3, 2014.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61K 47/68	(2006.01)
A61K 47/65	(2006.01)
A61K 31/5517	(2006.01)
A61K 47/54	(2006.01)
A61K 47/55	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A61K 47/6889*** (2017.08); ***A61K 47/65*** (2017.08); ***A61K 31/5517*** (2013.01); ***A61K 47/6849*** (2017.08); ***A61K 47/55*** (2017.08); ***A61K 47/6803*** (2017.08); ***A61K 47/54*** (2017.08)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to novel cell-binding agent-cytotoxic agent conjugates, wherein the cell-binding agent (CBA) is covalently linked to the cytotoxic agent through an aldehyde group obtained from oxidation of a 2-hydroxyethylamine moiety on the CBA. The invention also provides methods of preparing the conjugates of the present invention. The invention further provides composition and methods useful for inhibiting abnormal cell growth or treating a proliferative disorder in a mammal using the conjugates of the invention.

Specification includes a Sequence Listing.